

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2017*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, on December 18, 2017, I missed three Roll Call votes because I was detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted:

NO on the Motion to Fix the Convening Times—House GOP Leadership has offered a motion to change tomorrow's convening time to 10:00 a.m. (Roll Call No. 685);

YES on H.R. 4375, the STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act (Roll Call No. 686); and

YES on H.R. 3979, the Keep America's Refuges Operational Act (Roll Call No. 687).

## TESTIMONY OF ALIYAH SALLEY

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2017*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD testimony of Aliyah Salley.

Hello, my name is Aliyah Salley and I am from Bucks County, PA. First let me start off by saying Thank you. Thank you to Congressman Fitzpatrick, and his colleagues for giving us this opportunity to be heard today. I also want to thank Barbara Simmons of the Peace Center, my mom, Necole Salley and my grandmother, Linda Salley who is the president of the African American Museum of Bucks County. If it wasn't for these 3 ladies along with Congressman Fitzpatrick I believe my story as well as the stories you will hear today will have gone unheard. As I said earlier my name is Aliyah Salley. I was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, lived in Virginia for a few years and then moved to Bucks County, PA in 2011 with my mom and my sister. We move to Bucks County because my mom talked about how nice of a place it was to raise her children because of the experience she had living there when she was young. For all the years I lived down south, I never once had to deal with racism or the discrimination until I moved to Bucks County. My sister and I went to school in the Neshaminy school district and I am a proud graduate of the 2016 class of Neshaminy & I have been attending BCCC for the past 2 years. While attending Neshaminy High, I

experienced many offensive situations. I've seen racists slurs written on school property, my friends and I have been called the N\*\*\*\* word to our faces by students, there has been students wearing a confederate flag throughout the school and no one says anything to them. Two months ago, I became a victim of a hate crime. I have a part time job that I have worked for the past 4 years. As I was walking to my car to go to work I saw hand-writing on the car. As I approached the car I could see that the n\*\*\*\* word was carved on the front and back of my car. Imagine how hurtful this is, coming from the south, never having to deal with anything like this before and having it in your face every time you walk out of the door to go to school. It is out of control. We can't allow this to continue. Living in a small town is not meant for one race it is meant for all people. We need help. We have to educate the misinformed. The people that don't know any better. We have to figure out a way to teach people that diversity makes our community stronger. We have to open the doors to allow diversity to feel welcomed into the community. I went to a school with over 4000 students, but the faculty has only 1 African American principal in the entire building. Imagine what that feels like to as an African American student seeing only ONE African American faculty member in a school of thousands of students and hundreds of teachers. It hurts, it's sad, and we have to correct it. I am looking for change, annual diversity trainings for the teaching staff, more history of different cultures within the curriculum, a day of culture and food, counseling for the victims or even articulate a clear statement of expectations regarding racism within the schools, but don't ignore it and act like it is not happening because it is happening all the time. Today you will hear testimonies from other students from different school districts in Bucks County who had to deal with similar things such as myself. Please have an open heart and listen to these stories and then let's create true change for the next generation to grow in confidence of who they are and what they have to offer, regardless of the color of their skin. As the Constitution states, and I agree like all of you, that "All men are created equal" & all we want is equality.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JACKY ROSEN**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2017*

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, on December 18th, on roll call votes 685, 686, and 687, I

was not present because I was tending to my husband, who is recovering from major spinal surgery. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on roll call vote 685, YEA on roll call vote 686, and YEA on roll call vote 687.

## CONGRATULATING GEORGE AND RUTHIE EDWARDS ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2017*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate George and Ruthie Edwards on their 50th Anniversary this Christmas Eve, December 24, 2017. Marriage is one of the oldest institutions ordained by God; and George and Ruthie have proven to have endured fifty years as proof. George and Ruthie married in 1967 before his deployment to the Vietnam War in 1968. Upon his return from war, the Edwards' were blessed with five children; the late George, Jr., Vincent, Tomika, Yul and Corinthia. In addition, George and Ruthie are the proud grandparents of Jasmine, Devan, Danielle, London, Jordan and great-grandparents of Carter & K.T. Edwards.

George retired from the Georgia Pacific Corporation and Ruthie retired from the Texas Independent School District. They both are faithful, life-long members of the New Zion Baptist Church, spending countless hours in church-related activities to improve the New Town community. They enjoy traveling, spending time with family and friends, eating out at local restaurants and most importantly reading the Bible.

With age comes wisdom and with wisdom comes truth. Many years ago I recall some friends saying to me, "to keep a marriage brimming, with love in the loving cup; whenever you are wrong—admit it; whenever you are right—shut up!" I am most certain; every married couple understands this philosophy.

I congratulate you on achieving this milestone and wish you many years of happiness and joy in the future.